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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

Sept. 10 - Sept. 16, 1992

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### News Releases—

Old Remedy Protects Stored Peanuts from Heat

Algeria Eligible for Additional Milk Powder Under DEIP

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Price and User Marketing  
Certificate Payment Rate for Upland Cotton

USDA Animal Damage Control Advisory Committee Schedules Public  
Meeting

USDA Announces \$1.15 Billion Assistance Package for Russia

Agricultural Credit Guarantees and Food Assistance for Russia

Private Exporters Report Sales Activity for Pakistan

Medfly Finds Cause USDA Quarantine in California County

USDA Requests Public Comments on P&SA Regulations and Policy  
Statements

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Rice Prices

USDA Announces Export Enhancement Package for Table Eggs

USDA Patented Coloring Process Could Replace Red Dye No. 3

Microbiological Advisory Committee to Meet in Washington, D.C.

Microbiological Advisory Committee Members Named

United States to Provide Food Aid to Byelarus

United States Donates Wheat to Armenia

CCC Seeks Comments on 1993 Farm Program Common Provisions

USDA Slates 68 Million Bushels of Feed Quality Wheat for Foreign  
Donation



# News Releases

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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Bruce Kinzel (301) 504-8739

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## **OLD REMEDY PROTECTS STORED PEANUTS FROM HEAT**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10—A warehouse can get too hot for peanuts, but researchers have found that an old-time remedy—white paint—lowers roof temperatures by as much as 40 to 50 degrees F.

When stored peanuts are too dry, they tend to split or crack and that makes it harder to even-roast the nuts, said John S. Smith Jr., a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist. If the moisture content falls below seven percent, he said, it reduces peanut milling quality.

Also, Smith said, a commercial operation that shells peanuts can lose money if it sells a load of peanuts at a moisture content under seven percent. That's because moisture loss reduces kernel weight—the basis for pricing peanuts.

“We’re suggesting that peanut warehouses be painted white as an inexpensive and effective way to reduce the loss of kernel moisture caused by high temperatures,” said Smith, an agricultural engineer for USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

He ran temperature checks for three years on plain galvanized metal panels and on panels covered with white latex paint or white ceramic paint. Surface temperatures on the unpainted sheet metal tended to be 40 to 50 degrees higher than on either of the painted panels.

Smith tested expensive white ceramic paint because it was reported to have the insulating qualities of the ceramic tiles used in the space industry. But, he found that latex paint worked as well as ceramic paint in reflecting the sun’s rays, and neither had much insulation value.

Peanuts may be stored in warehouses for as long as six to 10 months after fall harvest. Smith, who is located at ARS’ National Peanut Research Laboratory in Dawson, Ga., said, over time, temperatures can swing 50 degrees or higher, going into sun-baked summer days.

If it is 90 degrees F and a clear day, surface temperatures of peanuts stored in a non-painted warehouse can reach as high as 112 degrees to 115 degrees F, Smith said. But, if the warehouse roof is painted white, surface



temperatures will be around 95 degrees F.

“A large volume of stored peanuts is going to increase temperatures inside a warehouse on its own without the influence of outside heat,” Smith said. “It’s like AstroTurf on a baseball field on a sunny day. It might be 90 degrees in the stands, but the playing surface might be well over 100 degrees.”

While mechanically and naturally ventilating warehouses to control storage temperature and humidity, “we found that painting the warehouse top is what really counts,” Smith said. “However, it’s still important that proper ventilation be maintained.”

These tests on how temperature and humidity affect peanut quality during storage followed ones by Smith and ARS plant physiologist Timothy Sanders at the laboratory in Dawson, Ga. For example, warehouse temperatures averaging 50 to 60 degrees F with humidity between 50 to 70 percent resulted in a kernel moisture content of 6.5 percent to 7—at or near the content important for milling quality. That result was based on a 10.49 or less moisture content for peanuts entering storage.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact John S. Smith, agriculture engineer, National Peanut Research Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Dawson, Ga. 31742. Telephone (912) 995-4481.

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Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448  
Diane O’Connor (202) 720-4026

## **ALGERIA ELIGIBLE FOR ADDITIONAL MILK POWDER UNDER DEIP**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced Algeria is eligible for an additional 20,000 metric tons of milk powder under the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Dairy Export Incentive Program.

Sales of milk powder will be made through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. Sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses by USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation.

This milk powder allocation will be valid until Dec. 31, as provided in the invitation for offers. Details of the program will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Randy Baxter, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

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## **PUBLIC LAW 480, TITLE I AGREEMENT WITH MOLDOVA SIGNED**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10—Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman today announced the United States will provide \$10 million in food assistance to Moldova under Title I of Public Law 480—the Food for Peace Program.

Veneman said Moldova will purchase about 13,000 metric tons of U.S. wheat and 36,000 tons of U.S. corn with the funds.

“This first food aid agreement between the United States and Moldova demonstrates our continued commitment to the people of the former Soviet Union as they continue to restructure their economy,” she said.

Veneman said PL-480 assistance also is important to U.S. agriculture because it helps establish and maintain the U.S. share of agricultural markets in recipient nations.

Under the terms of the \$10-million agreement, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will finance 90-98 percent of the ocean transportation cost of the commodities, as well as the cost of port charges at the discharge port and overland transportation to the point of entry at the Moldovan border. USDA also will pay the ocean freight differential on commodities transported in U.S. flag vessels.

The Food for Peace Program is a food aid and market development program operated by USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service in conjunction with USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation.

Title I of the Food for Peace Program authorizes government-to-government concessional sales, which combine low interest rates and repayment terms of up to 30 years on financing to purchase specified U.S. agricultural products.

The supply period is fiscal 1992. Purchase authorizations will be announced when issued and sales will be made by private U.S. traders on a competitive bid basis.

For more information, contact Jim Higgiston at (202) 720-5319. For operational details call (202) 720-5780.

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## USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, Sept. 10—Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), the coarse count adjustment and the user marketing certificate payment rate in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Sept. 11, through midnight Thursday, Sept. 17.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-price U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 81 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 3.75 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP .....	42.54 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate .....	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate .....	81
II.	USNE Price .....	60.20 cents per pound
	NE Price .....	-56.45 cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed .....	<u>3.75</u> cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made. This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:



## Adjusted World Price

NE Price .....	56.45
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location .....	12.05
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....	1.55
Average U.S. location .....	0.31
Sum of Adjustments .....	-13.91
Calculated AWP .....	<u>42.54</u>
Further AWP Adjustment .....	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....	42.54 cents/lb.

## Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price .....	56.45
NE Coarse Count Price .....	<u>-51.17</u>
	5.28
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton .....	<u>-3.95</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT .....	1.33 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1990, 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.27, 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 2.50 cents per pound.

This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/
1	Aug. 20, 1992	62.45	58.97	3.48	2.23
2	Aug. 27, 1992	62.10	58.10	4.00	2.75
3	Sept. 3, 1992	60.50	57.11	3.39	2.14
4	Sept. 10, 1992	60.20	56.45	3.75	2.50

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

The next announcement of the AWP, coarse count adjustment and user marketing certificate payment rate will be made on Thursday, Sept. 17.

#

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206  
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## U.S. INDUSTRY BUYS 462 MILLION POUNDS OF 1991 FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11— U.S. cigarette manufacturers purchased 462.5 million pounds of farm sales weight flue-cured tobacco from July 1, 1991 through June 30, 1992 (excluding pre-1985 loan stocks).

The manufacturers' purchase intentions for the 1991 crop were 483.5 million pounds.

Actual purchases were 95.7 percent of intended purchases, the lowest percentage since 1986.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 requires each major domestic cigarette manufacturer to purchase at least 90 percent of their intentions to avoid the assessment of a penalty.

Robert Tarczy (202) 720-8839.

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## **USDA ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11—A national group of citizen advisors will meet Sept. 22-24 in Fort Collins, Colo., to discuss the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control (ADC) program.

Sessions will be in the Idaho Room, University Park Holiday Inn, from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sept. 22; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sept. 23; and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 24.

The ADC program is administered by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The program's goal is to minimize wildlife threats to agriculture, human health and safety, and threatened and endangered species.

ADC Deputy Administrator Bobby Acord said recommendations made by the committee will help guide future efforts within the program.

"Wildlife is a valuable resource, and it is vital that we receive input from the public about our efforts to deal with damage caused by wildlife," Acord said. "Our goal is to use this open forum to evaluate our policies, control methods and research activities."

Topics to be addressed include: committee expectations for the 1992-1994 term; state distribution of ADC federal funds; ADC planning for the future; research needs; and the livestock protection collar, a device to control predation on sheep.

The meeting will be open to the general public, but public participation in committee discussions will not be feasible because of time constraints.

The public may submit written statements regarding agenda topics at the meeting or by sending them to Richard Wadleigh, ADC, APHIS, USDA, Room 821 Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments should refer to docket 92-134-1.

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES \$1.15 BILLION ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR RUSSIA**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced a \$1.15 billion credit guarantee and food assistance package for Russia.

Credit guarantees will constitute \$900 million of the total \$1.15 billion package. These will be made available in three parts: \$100 million will be made available immediately; \$500 million will be made available for the first quarter of fiscal 1993, beginning on Oct. 1; and the remaining \$300 million will become available Jan. 1.

In addition, \$250 million in food assistance will be made available starting Oct. 1.

“These measures will assure that U.S. agricultural exports to one of our largest markets continue at a normal pace, even as Russia continues its dramatic economic restructuring,” said Madigan. “This assistance package will support more than 30,000 export-related jobs in the United States and nearly \$3 billion in total economic activity.”

The \$100 million in guarantees for fiscal 1992 will be allocated as follows: \$66 million for feed grains, \$24 million for protein meal and \$10 million for wheat. Russia also has available approximately \$18 million for additional purchases of wheat in fiscal 1992 from previous credit guarantee allocations, including those for the former Soviet Union. All sales may be made on a cost-and-freight basis.

Details of the commodity mix for the next \$500 million in credit guarantees will be announced around Oct. 1. Commodities for food assistance will be announced as programs are developed.

Madigan said the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s food aid program in 1992 had been a major success, providing food to thousands of people in many Russian cities.

“Although Russian agricultural production is higher and reforms are well under way, we know there is a need for this type of assistance,” he said. “We will continue to use all of USDA’s food aid programs as we did in fiscal 1992.”

Additional credit guarantees or assistance could be made available to Russia later as well. This package does not include credit guarantees and



assistance to any other former Soviet republics, which are still under consideration.

#

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Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

## **AGRICULTURAL CREDIT GUARANTEES AND FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR RUSSIA**

Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced \$1.15 billion in agricultural credit guarantees and food assistance for Russia, with \$100 million available immediately for purchases of commodities in September.

### **Components of the Package**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will make the credit guarantees and assistance available on the following schedule:

- \$100 million in GSM-102 credit guarantees for purchases in September;
- \$500 million in GSM-102 credit guarantees for purchases during October-December 1992, available Oct. 1;
- Up to \$250 million in food assistance under various programs, available Oct. 1; and
- \$300 million in GSM-102 credit guarantees for purchases during January-February 1993, available Jan. 1.

### **Commodities to be Purchased**

Consistent with the Russian request, the \$100 million in September credit guarantees will be allocated as follows:

- \$66 million for feed grains;
- \$24 million for protein meals; and
- \$10 million for wheat.

Sales may be made on a cost-and-freight (C&F) basis.

Russia also has available approximately \$18 million for additional purchases of wheat from previous credit guarantee allocations, including those for the former Soviet Union. Sales of wheat under this remaining balance also may be made on a C&F basis.

Commodity allocations for the next \$500 million in credit guarantees will be announced around Oct. 1. Allocations for the remaining \$300 million will be announced around Jan. 1.

Commodities for food assistance will be announced in the near future as programs are developed. USDA anticipates that for the credit and assistance

programs as a whole, high-value products will make up at least 35 percent.

#### Background on Programs for Russia and Other Former Soviet Republics

Russia and the former Soviet Union have been extremely important markets for U.S. farmers and agribusiness. U.S. farm exports to the former Soviet Union exceeded \$1 billion in eight of the past 10 years.

President Bush announced the first GSM-102 credit guarantees for what was then the Soviet Union on Dec. 12, 1990. Since the guarantees became effective in January 1991, a total of \$4.85 billion in credit guarantees were made available to the Soviet Union and its successor states in fiscal years 1991 and 1992 — \$1.915 billion in 1991 and \$2.935 billion in 1992. Today's announcement of \$1.15 billion follows on these earlier efforts.

Under the GSM-102 program, USDA guarantees repayment of credits issued in connection with sales of U.S. agricultural goods. Credits must be repaid in 3 years or less, and if a purchasing country defaults on a payment, registrations of future sales under the program are immediately suspended until the debt is again current. Russia has not defaulted on any payments throughout the period the program has been offered, nor did the former Soviet Union.

Today's announcement of credit guarantees does not cover the entire 1993 fiscal year, and additional guarantees could be announced later. In addition, credit guarantees could be announced for other republics of the former Soviet Union that qualify for the program.

The food assistance announced today will offer, on donational or concessional terms, U.S. products of which Russia is in urgent need. USDA anticipates food aid under various programs will also be provided to some other former Soviet republics during FY 1993.

Within the last month, USDA allocated \$83 million in P.L. 480, Title I, funds to several of these republics: Byelarus (\$24 million), Armenia (\$15 million), Tajikistan (\$10 million), Kyrgyzstan (\$10 million), Moldova (\$10 million) and Georgia (\$14 million).

In addition, beginning last fall, the United States has provided approximately \$200 million in food aid to Russia and other republics. Some of this assistance has been programmed through private voluntary organizations (PVOs) like CARE, Catholic Relief Services and the Red Cross. It is probable that some of the up to \$250 million in food aid announced today will also involve PVOs, and USDA will also consider proposals for PVO projects beyond the amounts announced today, for projects in Russia or other republics.

The credit guarantees and food assistance announced today will generate \$3 billion in economic activity. Two-thirds of this effect will occur once



commodities leave the farm, through processing, packaging, shipping, merchandising and other export-related activities that add value to farm products. Over 30,000 jobs are associated with the \$1.15 billion in export opportunities announced today.

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR PAKISTAN**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 100,000 metric tons of soft white wheat for delivery to Pakistan during 1992-93 marketing year.

The marketing year for wheat began June 1. USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 P.M. eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

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Courtney Billet (301) 436-4446

Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

## **MEDFLY FINDS CAUSE USDA QUARANTINE IN CALIFORNIA COUNTY**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that part of Santa Clara County, Calif., was quarantined because of a Mediterranean fruit fly infestation.

“Over 125 Medflies have been found in the San Jose area since July 28,” said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine with USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “The quarantine will help contain the infestation until it has been eradicated.”

Lee said approximately 160 acres of fruit and vegetable crops and a number of nurseries and produce vendors are in the quarantined area.

Under the USDA quarantine, fruits and vegetables must be federally certified as pest free before being moved interstate.

Lee said a similar quarantine has been in effect in the Los Angeles basin since Nov. 5, 1991.

The Santa Clara quarantine was announced in an interim rule that became effective on Sept. 10 and is scheduled to be published in the Sept. 15 Federal Register. Comments on the action will be accepted if received on or before Nov. 16.

An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket 91-155-2 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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Sara Wright (202)720-9528  
Edwin Moffett (202)447-4026

## **USDA REQUESTS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON P&SA REGULATIONS AND POLICY STATEMENTS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced it is seeking public comments on regulations and policy statements issued under the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

“USDA’s Packers and Stockyards Administration is reviewing all regulations and policy statements issued under the P&S Act,” said Virgil M. Rosendale, P&SA Administrator.

“The agency has completed its review of 16 regulations included in the president’s program to review priority regulations,” Rosendale said. “P&SA is now requesting comments concerning which of the remaining sections of its regulations should be retained in their present form and which sections should be modified or removed.”

Rosendale said P&SA is specifically requesting comments on concerns or recommendations relating to bonding levels and free or below cost trucking provided to consignors of market agencies selling on commission.

A notice will be published in the Sept. 15 Federal Register requesting public comments on particular P&SA regulations, and bonding and trucking issues.



Those wanting a copy of the register docket or a list of the regulations covered under this request should contact Sara K. Wright, OA-P&SA-USDA, Room 3043-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-2800; telephone (202) 720-9528.

#

Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734  
Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Randall Green today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.15 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 8.25 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.24 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.57 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, loan deficiency payment rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price level are:

- for long grain, \$0.99 per hundredweight;
- for medium grain, \$0.94 per hundredweight;
- for short grain, \$0.94 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 12:00:01 A.M. EDT until 12:00:00 a.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 22. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Sept. 22 at 7 a.m. EDT. The price announced at that time will be effective from 12:00:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 22.

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Dave Warren (202) 720-4026

## **USDA ANNOUNCES EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE FOR TABLE EGGS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced a package of initiatives under the Export Enhancement Program to encourage sales of 40 million dozen table eggs.

With today's announcement, Hong Kong is eligible to purchase an additional 30 million dozen eggs and six countries in the Near East—United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the Republic of Yemen—are eligible to purchase 10 million dozen eggs.

This new package replaces EEP egg initiatives announced previously. The new initiatives will remain in effect through the 1993 marketing year for eggs, which ends Dec. 31, 1993.

"Today's announcement underscores our commitment to use EEP to expand U.S. exports of value-added products," Madigan said. "In the past five years, 87 million dozen U.S. table eggs—or \$50 million worth—have been exported with the aid of EEP. The eggs exported under these two initiatives are estimated to have a market value of over \$25 million."

Sales of table eggs will be made to buyers in these markets through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. The export sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in these markets.

Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued soon. For more information call Randy Baxter, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

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Bruce Kinzel (301) 504-8739  
Dave Warren (202) 720-7763

## **USDA PATENTED COLORING PROCESS COULD REPLACE RED DYE NO. 3**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15—A potential replacement for the food colorant Red Dye No. 3 has been developed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist.

Currently, Red Dye No. 3 is banned in cosmetics, externally applied drugs and some food dyes, like cake icings, because it is a suspected carcinogen. Its use as a colorant for maraschino cherries and some other foods is still permitted under 1960s rules.

Gerald M. Sapers of USDA's Agricultural Research Service said a new coloring process, now patented, prevents "bleeding" of dyed maraschino cherries in products like fruit cocktail and fruit salad. That's because carotenoid pigments are used as the key ingredient in the new cherry



colorant. These pigments can be produced synthetically or derived naturally from red peppers, pimentos and tomatoes, he said.

“These pigments can’t be applied directly to cherries as a colorant because they are insoluble in water,” Sapers said. “However, a natural solvent such as ethanol can be used to dissolve the pigments and create a successful food colorant.” Then, the ethanol can be removed with water.

Carotenoid pigments are currently approved for food use, and that could lessen the chance that the new process would need Food and Drug Administration approval.

“The only approved food colorant being used as a replacement for Red Dye No. 3 is carmine, a natural water-soluble compound derived from the dried body of an insect,” Sapers said. “But, this colorant is expensive, difficult to apply and may vary in color uniformity. It also lacks Kosher certification.”

Sapers, a research food technologist at the ARS Eastern Regional Research Center in Philadelphia, said the new colorant is easier to apply to maraschino cherries than Red Dye No. 3 or carmine. Also, the coloring process is compatible with current commercial production of colored cherries, he said.

Ethanol used in the coloring process can be recovered and used in subsequent dyeing solutions.

When the ethanol concentration is lowered below two percent, he said cherries can be packed in water or syrup and pasteurized. The color of the cherry surface and its interior tissue is relatively uniform using the technology, Sapers said.

NOTE TO EDITOR: For details, contact Gerald M. Sapers, research food technologist, Plant Science Research Unit, Eastern Regional Research Center, USDA, ARS, Philadelphia, Pa. 19118. Telephone: (215) 233-6417.

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Diane O’Connor (202) 720-4026

## **U.S. DONATES WHEAT TO REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture will donate \$14 million worth of U.S. wheat and wheat flour to the Republic of Georgia under the Food for Progress program.

This is the first food aid agreement between the United States and the Republic of Georgia, Madigan said. Georgia will receive about 100,000 metric tons of U.S. wheat and wheat flour. USDA also will provide \$7.5 million for ocean transportation and will arrange for both ocean transportation and freight forwarding.

Under the Food for Progress program, USDA provides commodities to needy countries to encourage agricultural reform. Under the terms of this agreement, Georgia has agreed to carry out a number of measures to expand the role of the private sector and improve food supplies.

Commodity purchases will be made by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service using Public Law 480, Title I funds. The supply period is fiscal 1992.

For further information, contact Jim Higgiston or Ben Muskovitz at (202) 720-5319 or (202) 720-0625.

#

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## **MICROBIOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15—The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods will meet here, Sept. 28-30, at the Holiday Inn, 775 Twelfth Street, Northwest.

The committee advises the secretaries of agriculture and health and human services on the development of microbiological criteria to assess the safety and wholesomeness of food, according to Dr. H. Russell Cross, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

The committee includes in its recommendations criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether food has been processed using good manufacturing practices, Cross said.

The three-day meeting, open to the public on a space-available basis, will include four subcommittee sessions.

The full committee will meet Monday, Sept. 28, from 1 to 5 p.m. to discuss various topics, including the agency's microbiological baseline data collection program for cattle and other species, hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP), and risk analysis.



Concurrent sessions of the Campylobacter Working Group and the Seafood Working Group will be held Tuesday, Sept. 29, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Concurrent sessions of the Meat and Poultry Working Group and the HACCP Working Group will be held Tuesday, Sept. 29, from 1 to 5 p.m. The full committee will meet again Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Comments may be filed before or after the meetings with Bill Dennis, assistant to the administrator, USDA, FSIS, Room 3175-S, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

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Jim Greene (202) 720-0314  
Edwin Moffett (212) 720-4026

## **MICROBIOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS NAMED**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15—Nine new and 17 re-appointed members were recently confirmed for the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods, according to a USDA official.

Dr. H. Russell Cross, committee chairman and administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said the committee assists and advises the secretaries of agriculture and health and human services on the development of microbiological criteria to assess the safety and wholesomeness of food. The committee also recommends criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether food has been processed using effective manufacturing practices.

The new members are Gary R. Acuff, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas; R. Paul Clayton, Con-Agra, Inc., Greeley, Colo.; Marilyn B. Kilgen, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, La.; Ann Marie McNamara, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, D.C.; J. Glenn Morris, Jr., University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md.; Col. Colin Meyer, United States Army Research and Development Center, Natick, Mass.; William H. Sveum, Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation, Madison, Wis.; Mark L. Tamplin, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.; and Donn R. Ward, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C.

The re-appointed members include Douglas L. Archer, Food and Drug Administration, Washington, D.C.; William L. Brown, ABC Research Corporation, Gainesville, Fla.; Robert L. Buchanan, Agricultural Research Service, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mitchell Cohen, Centers for Disease Control,

Atlanta, Ga.; David W. Dreesen, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.; E. Spencer Garrett, National Marine Fisheries Service, Pascagoula, Miss.; Robert B. Gravani, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.; John Kvenberg, Food and Drug Administration, Washington, D.C.; Jong Sun Lee, University of Alaska, Kodiak, Alaska; and Kenneth N. May, Hudson Foods Inc., Wilkesboro, N.C.

Also re-appointed are Ranzell Nickelson, II, Applied Microbiological Service, Inc., San Antonio, Texas; Merle D. Pierson, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Va.; Martha R. Roberts, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Tallahassee, Fla.; William H. Sperber, The Pillsbury Company, Minneapolis, Minn.; David M. Theno, Jr., Theno and Associates, Modesto, Calif.; Sterling S. Thompson, Hershey Foods Corporation, Hershey, Pa.; and Bruce Tompkin, Armour Swift-Eckrich, Inc., Downers Grove, Ill.

The entire committee will meet Sept. 28-30, in Washington, D.C., at the Holiday Inn, 775 Twelfth Street, Northwest. The three-day meeting is open to the public on a space-available basis.

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## **U.S. TO DONATE CORN FOR HUMANITARIAN USE IN AFRICA**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16—The United States will donate \$33.6 million of surplus corn from U.S. Department of Agriculture stockpiles for humanitarian use in Africa, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today.

“This donation reaffirms the United States’ commitment to respond to emergency food needs wherever they arise,” Madigan said. The priority will be meeting needs for corn in Somalia, Kenya and other countries in Africa where civil strife, drought and the resulting needs of refugees have placed a severe strain on local food availabilities.

Madigan said the donation of 15 million bushels, which translates to about 380,000 metric tons, spotlights the need for the developed countries to do more to manage and focus their economic assistance programs so that the cycle of famine in Africa can be broken.

The corn is being donated under Section 416 (b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas.



In fiscal 1992 this program has been used to move surplus U.S. feed grains and dairy commodities to Somalia, southern African countries, the Baltic nations and Russia, among other destinations.

The assistance provided will cover transportation costs, including internal transport, storage and handling. Distribution will be coordinated with the Agency for International Development and the World Food Program, which is part of the United Nations. Some private voluntary U.S. organizations may also be involved. The corn will be available early in fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, Foreign Agricultural Service (202) 720-5263.

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## **UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE FOOD AID TO BYELARUS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the United States will provide \$24 million in food aid to Byelarus under Title I of Public Law 480—the Food for Peace Program.

Byelarus will purchase about 50,000 metric tons of protein meals and 89,000 tons of feed grains with the funds.

“This aid illustrates the continued U.S. commitment to helping the newly independent nations of the former Soviet Union make the difficult transition to a market economy,” Madigan said.

He said P.L. 480 assistance also is important because it helps establish and maintain the U.S. share in overseas agricultural markets. Under the terms of the \$24-million agreement, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will finance 90 to 98 percent of the ocean transportation costs of the commodities.

The Food for Peace Program is a food aid and market development program operated by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service in cooperation with USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Title I of the Food for Peace program authorizes government-to-government concessional sales, which combine low interest rates and repayment terms of up to 30 years on financing to purchase specified U.S. agricultural products.

The supply period is fiscal 1992. Purchase authorizations will be announced when issued and sales will be made by private U.S. traders on a competitive bid basis.

For more information, contact Jim Higgiston or Paul Spencer at (202) 720-5319. For operational details call (202) 720-5780.

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## **UNITED STATES DONATES WHEAT TO ARMENIA**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture will donate \$12.3 million worth of U.S. wheat to Armenia under the Food for Progress program.

Armenia will receive about 90,000 metric tons of U.S. wheat, Madigan said. USDA also will provide \$2.7 million for ocean transportation and will arrange for both ocean transportation and freight forwarding with Armenia's designated agent.

Under the Food for Progress program, USDA provides commodities to needy countries to encourage agricultural reform. Under the terms of this agreement, Armenia has agreed to carry out a number of measures to expand the role of the private sector and improve food supplies.

Commodity purchases will be made by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service using Public 480, Title I funds. The supply period is fiscal 1992.

For more information, contact Jim Higgiston or Casey Bean at (202) 720-5319. For operational details call (202) 690-4799.

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## **CCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON 1993 FARM PROGRAM COMMON PROVISIONS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today asked for comments on 1993 annual commodity program provisions for wheat, feed grains, rice, upland cotton, and extra-long staple cotton.



The proposed regulations will be published in the Sept. 17 Federal Register.

John Stevenson, acting executive vice president of CCC, said that comments are sought on the following:

- Which crops should not be permitted to be planted on “flex” acreage.
- Whether targeted option payments should be made available on wheat, feed grains, rice and upland cotton.
- Whether to permit the planting of specified crops on up to half of the acreage conservation reserve.
- Whether to allow the planting of oats on ACR acreage under the wheat and feed grain programs.
- Whether to allow the planting of conserving crops on ACR acreage.
- Whether to allow the planting of alternative crops on acreage designated as conserving use.
- Whether malting barley should be exempted from the 1993 acreage reduction requirements.

CCC is proposing that no other crops be added to the list that may not be planted on flex acreage.

CCC also proposes that the following not be implemented for 1993 crops: Target option payments, the planting of oats on ACR acreage, the planting of conserving crops on ACR acreage, and malting barley exemptions.

Comments submitted on the foregoing provisions should include:

- justification for the designation.
- the impact on farm income and CCC outlays, and
- production practices, costs, and market prices.

Comments must be received by Oct. 19 by the deputy administrator, Policy Analysis-USDA/ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. All comments will be available for public inspection in room 3090-S of USDA’s south building during regular business hours.

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## **U.S. DONATES SORGHUM TO MALI**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16—Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture will donate 4,000 metric tons of U.S. sorghum to Mali.

The \$720,000 donation will be used by Mali's government to feed more than 100,000 refugees who have returned to Mali after fleeing civil unrest.

The donation was made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to developing countries. The program is administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. The supply period is fiscal 1992.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR RUSSIA**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 330,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to Russia during the 1992-93 marketing year.

The marketing year for corn began Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

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## **USDA SLATES 68 MILLION BUSHELS OF FEED QUALITY WHEAT FOR FOREIGN DONATION**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation intends to donate about 68 million bushels of feed quality wheat to undetermined foreign countries under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today.

Madigan said the feed quality wheat available for donation came from a recent rotation of Food Security Wheat Reserve stocks.

Wheat which entered the reserve before 1988 was not graded for insect-damaged kernels, he said. New regulations adopted in 1988 tightened grading standards and resulted in about 68 million bushels of that wheat being classified as insect damaged and not appropriate for human consumption.

“This lower-quality wheat was replaced in the reserve inventory with an equivalent amount of U.S. No. 2 or better wheat,” Madigan said. “This makes the lower-quality wheat, which may be used for animal feed, available for donation.”

A Federal Register notice announcing the quantities of agricultural commodities available for donation under Section 416(b) will be published shortly.

By donating these feed-quality stocks abroad, rotation of Food Security Wheat Reserve inventory will not increase domestic stocks of feed quality wheat, which are ample, Madigan said.

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